

C/Ops

MTA-2021

6 August 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Tel Aviv Bureau -- July 1982

I. GENERAL

July was another exceptionally busy month for Tel Aviv Bureau, with just under 450,000 words filed. The Israeli Defense Forces continued their siege of Beirut while frantic diplomatic activity continued in an effort to find a peaceful removal of the trapped PLO fighters from Beirut. Despite numerous cease-fires, heavy fighting frequently erupted, often accompanied by Israeli air bombardments.

To provide additional coverage during this period, the bureau opened one hour earlier and closed two hours later than normal for most of the month. This further enhanced the bureau's reputation as the spot where weary political officers could get the latest news virtually anytime day or night.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

HEBREW SECTION

The major focus of attention throughout the month was of course the political efforts to solve the Lebanese problem and the closely related efforts to maintain a cease-fire. As the month drew to a close the eighth cease-fire had come into effect. Although there were scattered artillery duels throughout the month, sometimes quite heavy, the heaviest fighting came at the end of the month. On the 21st, terrorists who infiltrated from a Syrian-controlled area attacked and killed five IDF soldiers in Lebanon. The IDF reacted with heavy air and artillery attacks all along the cease-fire line on 22 July and then bombed Beirut targets on 7 of the next 8 days.

Probably the most noteworthy military clash occurred on 24 July when Israeli planes attacked and destroyed three SAM-8 missile batteries in Al-Biqa'. This was the first time SAM-8 missiles had been used in Lebanon. There was some speculation in the Israeli media that the weapons may have been manned by Soviet soldiers, but Israeli defense authorities said they had no evidence to support this. The use of the SAM-8's came after an unidentified Syrian officer had said over Damascus radio that the Syrians might use weapons "not yet used." Ma'ariv on 25 July, citing "IDF sources", said the Syrians had been warned not to introduce new weapons into the conflict.

A few hours after the attack on the SAM-8 batteries an Israeli

Phantom on patrol in the area was shot down by a SAM-6 missile. There were conflicting reports as to whether the missile was fired from just beyond the Syrian border or from the Lebanese side. Prime Minister Begin on 30 July warned the Syrians not to fire missiles from within their territory and said Israeli planes would attack the missile sites if the Syrians did so.

One interesting sidelight of the military aspect of the Peace for Galilee campaign was the 4 July shootout in Sidon with two trapped PLO commanders. One of those killed, A'zami Sughayyir, was believed to have helped plan the 1978 coastal road attack on an Israeli bus which was the immediate impetus for the Litani campaign.

As busy as things were on the military front, they were no less so on the political front. Throughout the month special envoy Philip Habib continued his efforts, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Morris Draper also visited the area. Israeli leaders frequently alluded to timetables in an apparent attempt to supplement their military pressure with verbal and political pressure. The reports were somewhat contradictory. One report on 1 July spoke of Habib having been given a "grace period," and, while Prime Minister Begin on 6 July was reportedly "optimistic" about a political settlement, already on the 7th there were reports Habib had only to the 11th to find a solution. By the 12th Sharon was saying that Habib's time was "slowly running out" while Begin seemed to reject this in saying on the 14th that he was willing to give the United States "all the time it needs" to reach a settlement. By the 18th Begin was saying that the Lebanese campaign had not yet ended and the following day he said the "state of war" would end in "2-3 weeks," and so it went throughout the month.

On 6 July Israeli radio and THE JERUSALEM POST carried rather detailed reports on a U.S.-French plan to use U.S. Marines in Beirut in connection with a PLO evacuation. Begin on 8 July reacted sharply to this leak, saying it "did great damage and put the U.S. President, who had not yet informed Congress about the proposal, in a very awkward position."

Another storm arose over the meeting on 3 July between Israeli journalist Uri Avneri and Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut. 'Arafat told Avneri that the PLO had recognized Israel's right to exist three times and Avneri's paper, HA'OLAM HAZE, on 7 July carried the interview in full. Several politicians called for action against Avneri and the police were instructed to look into the situation. The issue of recognition again arose later in the month when Senator McCloskey met with 'Arafat. While various reports said 'Arafat had or had not recognized Israel's right to exist, Jerusalem sources on 25 July dismissed it as a "propaganda ploy."

In addition to the major story of the Lebanese fighting and political moves, several related items and domestic stories emerged. Among those issues directly related to the Lebanese campaign were Israeli media and leader comments on Secretary of State George Shultz's Senate confirmation hearings and how they might affect the negotiations, the cluster bomb issue, the strain in Israeli-Egyptian and Israeli-French relations created as a result of the Lebanese operation, the status of PLO prisoners and Major Haddad's future role in Lebanon. On the domestic front, there were several antiwar demonstrations in Jerusalem and Nazareth and a large one in Tel Aviv reportedly attended by about 80,000 people. There was also a huge pro-government rally in Tel Aviv which drew an estimated 250,000. The 6-month old Druze strike was settled in July, and, despite some disturbances, the West Bank was relatively quiet. The Gaza mayor and Dayr Dibwan Municipal Council were dismissed for failing to cooperate with the civilian administration. Rumors emerged on 9 July of strained relations between Begin and Sharon but Begin immediately denied the report. On the 12th there was a report that Sharon's stature in the Cabinet was declining.

TURKISH SECTION

One of the key architects of Turkish economic policy, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Turgut Ozal resigned on 14 July along with Finance Minister Erdem and Housing Minister Tuten. While no immediate reason was given for Ozal's resignation, it was widely speculated to have been in connection with one of Turkey's huge brokerage firms going bankrupt. Adnan Basar Kafaoglu, Ozal's successor, pledged in his first news conference on 29 July to continue the essence of the previous economic program.

The long awaited draft constitution was submitted to the Consultative Assembly chairmanship on 17 July by the constitution committee chairman. The key feature of the draft is an increase in the authorities of the Office of President. The 200-article draft to replace the 1961 constitution will be debated by the Consultative Assembly, approved by the National Security Council, and later submitted to a nationwide referendum for approval.

On the international front, the Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman on 27 July sharply criticized a nonbinding U.S. Congress decision envisaging the withdrawal of the "Turkish peace forces" from Cyprus and the appointment of a special representative by President Reagan to help solve the problem. The spokesman said this decision was received with regret, would have a "very negative effect" on Turkish public opinion and would "seriously weaken" the solidarity of the Western alliance.

B. Lateral Services

The bureau prepared special packages of material during the month

for special U.S. envoy Philip Habib and for Deputy Assistant Secretary Morris Draper on separate visits they made to Jerusalem. On 21 July the embassy economic section also asked the bureau for liberal filing of material relating to the financing of the war effort to help them in their reporting. The bureau was in almost constant contact with key embassy personnel throughout the month, alerting them to breaking issues. There were several requests for the bureau to alert high-level consumers at home even during official receptions and at odd hours.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

The bureau's FSN's received a cost-of-living pay raise of approximately 16 percent effective 1 July.

Deputy Bureau Chief [redacted] and Cruising Officer [redacted] departed Tel Aviv on PCS assignments on 11 July. Their replacements are expected in early August.

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IV. VISITS

Editor [redacted] arrived on TDY on 17 July for approximately 3 weeks to fill the gap between [redacted] departure and [redacted] arrival.

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✓ Chief, FBIS Tel Aviv Bureau

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Attachment: Production Report

TEL AVIV BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR JULY 1982ATTACHMENT AI. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 397,400

TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH : 52,200

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH: 1,300

	BROADCASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	6,543 min.	10,590 min.	51 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CLANDESTINE

(Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran	1,000
(Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kurdistan in Persian to Iran	0
(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in English to Cyprus	1,300
(Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish to Cyprus	2,500
(Clandestine) Our Radio in Turkish to Turkey	2,500
(Clandestine) Voice of Turkish Communist Party in Turkish to Europe and Turkey	5,000

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English	11,200	
Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew	113,600	
Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew	35,800	
Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew	39,100	
Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew		15,900
Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English		300

BROADCASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICATIONS
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ISRAEL (cont'd)

Jerusalem POST IN

English

38,800

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in

Hebrew

5,000

Tel Aviv DAVAR in

Hebrew

13,100

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in

Hebrew

24,900

Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in

Hebrew

6,700

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in

Hebrew

1,500

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in

Hebrew

35,800

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in

Hebrew

8,600

Tel Aviv BEMAHANE in

Hebrew

2,500

Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in

Hebrew

1,900

LEBANON

Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in

English

0

TURKEY

Ankara Domestic Service in

Turkish

16,200

Ankara ANATOLIA in

Turkish

500

Ankara ANATOLIA in

English

12,000

Ankara ANATOLIA in

French

200

0

STAT

UNITED KINGDOM

London BBC World Service in

English

0

USSR

Moscow in

Dari to Afghanistan

0

Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in

Hebrew to Israel

1,500

TEL AVIV BUREAU MONTHLY COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR JULY 1982 ATTACHMENT B

1. TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 397,400 (575,100)
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED WAS 52,200 (77,000)
DAILY WORDAGE FILED AVERAGED 14,503 (21,725)
HIGHEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 26,370 ON 2 July
LOWEST DAILY WORDAGE FILED WAS 4,890 ON 24 July
2. OUTAGES ON OUTGOING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 2.0 HOURS,0.4 PERCENT.
OUTAGES ON INCOMING SKYMUX CIRCUIT TOTALED 2.0 HOURS,0.4 PERCENT.
EXTENDED OUTAGES: NONE
3. MESSAGES RECEIVED VIA THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT FOR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
TEL AVIV TOTALED 1,982, OF WHICH 1,853 CARRIED THE BUREAU AS AN
ADDRESSEE.
4. WORDS FILED VIA TELEX DURING OUTAGES OF THE SKYMUX CIRCUIT: 440 (60)

NB. Figures from preceding month in parentheses.